

an interview fatal to the future peace of both. Septimius no sooner saw her, but he was smitten with an involuntary passion. He used every effort, but in vain, to suppress desires at once so imprudent and unjust. He retired to his apartment in inexpressible agony, and the emotions of his mind in a short time brought on a fever which the physicians judged incurable.

During this illness, Alcander watched him with all the anxiety of fondness, and brought his mistress to join in those amiable offices of friendship. The sagacity of the physicians by this means soon discovered the cause of their patient's disorder; and Alcander being apprized of their discovery, at length extorted a confession from the reluctant dying lover.

It would but delay the narrative to describe the conflict between love and friendship in the breast of Alcander on this occasion, it is enough to say, that the Athenians were at this time arrived to such a refinement in morals, that even virtue was carried to excess. In short, forgetful of his own felicity, he gave up his intended bride in all her charms to the young Roman; they were married privately by his connivance, and this unlooked-for change of fortune wrought as unexpected a change in the health of the happy Septimus.

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In a few days he was perfectly recovered, set out with his fair partner for Rome.

Here, by an exertion of those talents he was so eminently possessed of, he in a few years arrived at the highest dignities of state, and was constituted the city praetor.

Mean while Alcander not only free from the pain of being separated from his friend, but his mistress, but a prosecution was commenced against him by the relation of his mistress, for his having basely given her up. His innocence was suggested, for money. His innocence, the crime laid to his charge, or his eloquence in his own defence, were not able to stand the influence of a powerful party.

He was cast and condemned to pay a enormous fine. Unable to raise so large a sum, the time appointed, his possessions were confiscated, himself stripped of the habit of freedom, exposed in the market-place, and sold as a slave to the highest bidder.

A merchant of Thrace becoming chafed, Alcander, with some other citizens of distress, was carried into the region of desolation and sterility. His stated employment was to follow the herds of an Italian master, and his skill in hunting was allowed him to supply a precarious subsistence. Condemned to hopeless slavery, every morning waked him to a renewed

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